

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of initiating a reverse-link handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, ~~and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems~~, comprising the steps of:
 - a) first receiving, at a subject mobile station, a message from the serving base station directing performance of a handoff to the target base station; and thereafter
 - b)a) monitoring a first parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station obtained from the serving base station;
 - c)b) monitoring a second parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station obtained from the target base station;
 - d)e) determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and an offset;
 - e)f) returning to step (b)-(a) if the first parameter is not less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset; and
 - f)g) initiating a reverse link handoff between the serving and target base stations if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~initiating a handoff of~~ Claim 1, wherein the offset is zero.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~initiating a handoff of~~ Claim 1, wherein the offset is based on a Quality of Service (QoS) factor.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~initiating a handoff of~~ Claim 1, wherein the offset is based on a Frame Error Rate (FER) factor.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the first parameter is a first Ec/Io value associated with the serving base station.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 5, wherein the second parameter is a second Ec/Io value associated with the target base station.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 6, further comprising steps that precede step (a), including wherein step (e) of determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and an offset comprises the sub-steps of:
 - g) i) determining whether a current the second Ec/Io value of a pilot signal of the target base station is greater than a parameter "T_Add" T_Add parameter;
 - ii) returning to step (a) of Claim 1 if the second Ec/Io value is not greater than the T_Add parameter;
 - h) iii) sending a pilot signal measurement message (PSMM) PSMM to the serving base station and adding the target base station to a candidate set if the current second Ec/Io value of the target base station pilot signal is greater than the T_Add parameter;
 - i) iv) determining whether the serving base station transmitted an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station; and
 - v) v) returning to step (a) of Claim 1 if the serving base station did not transmit an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station;
 - j) vi) proceeding to step (b) only if, in step (a), (d) of Claim 1 if the serving base station transmitted an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station;
 - vii) monitoring the first parameter obtained from the serving base station and the second parameter obtained from the target base station; and
 - viii) determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the step (f)-(e) of initiating a reverse link handoff is autonomously performed by the mobile station.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the reverse link handoff is part of an intergenerational soft handoff comprising a forward link soft handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 9, wherein the reverse link handoff is autonomously performed by the subject mobile station.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 1, wherein the reverse link handoff is part of an intergenerational hard handoff comprising a forward link hard handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of initiating a handoff of Claim 11, wherein the handoff is autonomously performed by the mobile station.
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus Apparatus in a subject mobile station for initiating a reverse-link handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems, comprising:
 - a) a pilot strength reporting block means for sending a PSMM to the serving base station and adding the target base station to an active set when a first parameter associated with the target base station is greater than a T_Add-threshold parameter "T_Add"; and
 - b) a reverse link handoff control block configured to implement means for initiating a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff, wherein the hard handoff initiation means is responsive to the serving base station, and wherein the hard handoff initiation means initiates a reverse link intergenerational hard handoff when, after the serving base station transmits an intergenerational handoff direction message to the mobile station, a second -and-when a second parameter associated with the serving base station is less than or equal to a sum of a current value of the first parameter and an offset.
14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the first parameter is a target base station Ec/Io.
15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the second parameter is a serving base station Ec/Io.
16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the offset is zero.
17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the mobile station autonomously performs the reverse link intergenerational hard handoff.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the reverse-link handoff between the serving and target base stations is part of an intergenerational soft handoff comprising a forward link soft handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.
19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the mobile station autonomously determines timing of completion of performs the handoff based on measurements made by the mobile station.
20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the reverse-link handoff between the serving and target base stations is part of an intergenerational hard handoff comprising a forward link hard handoff and a reverse link hard handoff.
21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the mobile station autonomously determines timing of completion of performs the handoff based on measurements made by the mobile station.
22. (Currently Amended) A computer program executable on a general purpose computing device, wherein the program is capable of directing performance of a reverse link handoff between a serving base station and a target base station that has been directed by in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, and wherein the serving base station and the target base station operate in accordance to different generations of CDMA systems, comprising:
 - a) a first set of instructions for monitoring a first parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station obtained from the serving base station;
 - b) a second set of instructions for monitoring a second parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station obtained from the target base station;
 - c) a third set of instructions for determining if the first parameter is less than or equal to a the sum of the second parameter and an offset; and
 - d) a fourth set of instructions for initiating a reverse link handoff between the serving and target base stations if the first parameter is less than or equal to the sum of the second parameter and the offset.
23. (New) A method of controlling completion of a handoff between a serving base station and a target base station in a CDMA communication system having a plurality of base stations in communication with at least one mobile station, wherein each base station transmits at least one associated and corresponding pilot channel that uniquely identifies the base station, comprising:

- a) first receiving, at a subject mobile station, a message from the serving base station directing performance of a handoff to the target base station; and thereafter
- b) monitoring a first parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the serving base station;
- c) monitoring a second parameter reflective of a signal received by the subject mobile station from the target base station;
- d) comparing current values of the first parameter to corresponding values of the second parameter;
- e) returning to step (b) if a current value of the first parameter does not satisfy a selected relationship to a corresponding current value of the second parameter; and
- f) initiating a reverse link handoff between the serving and target base stations if the current value of the first parameter satisfies the selected relationship to the corresponding current value of the second parameter.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the first and second parameters reflect pilot signal strengths, and the selected relationship is satisfied when the second parameter exceeds the first parameter.

25. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein the first and second parameters reflect pilot signal strengths, and the selected relationship is satisfied when the second parameter exceeds a sum of the first parameter and an offset.

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the offset is based on a difference in symbol detection efficiency between the serving and target base stations.